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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Port Information: Gdynia

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2. [redacted] vessel arrived at Gdynia [redacted] and went to point (A) on overlay to HO Chart No 4928. The ship remained there awaiting her turn to load coal. At point (A), there are tanks for bunkers and the vessel had to shift once to allow a Polish ship to bunker. There are no cranes on this side of the pier.
3. A large [redacted] ship, the name of which could not be recalled, lay near the informant's ship, also waiting to load coal. At point (B) on the overlay there were six or eight semiportal jib cranes for loading and discharging general cargo, with large warehouses in back of them. Berthed at point (B) were two Polish merchant vessels with funnel markings similar to those of the Polish liner BATORY. Other vessels observed in the harbor [redacted] the name of which was not remembered, and which was loading coal [redacted] about five Soviet merchant ships loading coal, one large Soviet tug and about three small Polish naval vessels, about 30 feet in length.
4. [redacted] ship moved to point (C) to load coal. Here there is a long pier with room for five or six ships; and there are both portal and semiportal jib cranes used to load the coal. The exact number of such cranes was not noted. [redacted] vessel remained at point (C). Although the loading equipment was modern, the loading was slow because of a lack of longshoremen. The Vice Consul [redacted] told [redacted] that the Poles do not have enough men for coal trimming. In addition, Soviet ships have priority over all others in the port and, whenever a Soviet ship arrived, the loading of the [redacted] vessel was discontinued until the Soviet ship had been loaded. On one occasion, loading was stopped for about two days because of a lack of coal, and it was necessary to await the arrival of a coal train from the mines.

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5. [redacted] ship was searched upon arrival and upon departure. Although the crew was allowed to go ashore in Gdynia, passes in duplicate were required and there were "very rigid controls." The Polish people observed [redacted] ashore looked very poor and the prices of articles for sale were very high. Although the legal rate of monetary exchange was believed by the informant to be 2.99 zloty to the US dollar, the black market rate of exchange was said to be 50 zloty to the US dollar. According to Polish nationals, the monthly pay of workers is about 600 to 700 zloty per month or about US\$12 to 14 on the black market scale.
6. A Polish physician who boarded the vessel to visit an ill seaman told [redacted] that only about 5% of the Polish people are Communists and that the other 95% are very dissatisfied and unhappy. When some surprise was indicated that Poles would dare to make such statements, [redacted] said that they do not have much hesitation in expressing themselves when no one else is around, but of course they will not talk when officials or known Communists are present. The Poles [redacted] did not like the Soviets, whom they regarded as more Asiatic than European.
- [redacted]

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